

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF BICENTENNIAL PLANS WITH SOVIETS

REF: MOSCOW 2031; DEPT'S A-7287, SEPT. 19, 1974

1. DEPT AND USIA APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES FOR SOVIETS IN US AND US IN SOVIET UNION. WE WILL BE SENDING SEPARATE CABLE SHORTLY ON POSSIBLE US BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES IN USSR.

2. WE HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON PARA 3 OF REFTTEL:

A) PACIFIC 21 EXPOSITION. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPOSITION, BUT WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE RESPONDED. IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN EXPOSITION. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT SPONSORS ALSO PLAN TO HOLD CONFERENCE (AUG 8-11, 1976) TO WHICH THEY PLAN TO INVITE SOME HEADS OF STATES OF PACIFIC NATIONS. MALAYSIA, JAPAN, INDONESIA, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, AND SINGAPORE AMONG THOSE TO BE INVITED. IT IS NOT, RPT, NOT INTENTION OF HOSTS TO INVITE SOVIET LEADER TO CONFERENCE, PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO EMPHASIZE
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RELATIONSHIP OF PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES IN COMING CENTURY.

B) AMERICAN FOLK LIFE FESTIVAL. WE UNDERSTAND SMITHSONIAN HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOVIET EMBASSY HERE, WHICH APPARENTLY HAS EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY ASPECTS, SINCE FESTIVAL WILL BE ON OPEN MALL AREA. SINCE INITIAL APPROACH TO SOVIETS, SMITHSONIAN HAS HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SOVIET PARTICIPATION, WHICH SMITHSONIAN THINKS WOULD TEND TO BE PROFESSIONAL RATHER THAN PURE FOLK GROUPS. AT PRESENT, SMITHSONIAN DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO PRESS FOR SOVIET PARTICIPATION.

C) INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE OF YOUTH. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE SOVIET PARTICIPATION.

D) TRAVELLING EXHIBIT. SOVIET SITE SURVEY TEAM FOR SCIENTIFIC SIBERIA (EMBASSY'S 0916) IS CURRENTLY IN COUNTRY, LOOKING FOR SITES IN WASHINGTON, ATLANTA, FORT WORTH, SALT LAKE CITY, SEATTLE, AND CHICAGO. IN INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPT OFFICERS, SOVIETS MADE NO RPT NO REFERENCE SPECIFICALLY LINKING EXHIBIT WITH BICENTENNIAL. SEPARATE CABLE FOLLOWS ON HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION, INCLUDING EXHIBIT CONTENT, AS WELL AS ON NATIONAL EXHIBIT (EMBASSY'S 2139).

E) MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS TOURS. SOVIETS APPARENTLY WILL LINK BOLSHOI TOUR WITH BICENTENNIAL.

F) INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE. THIS CONFERENCE HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 1976. SOVIET PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

3. OTHER POSSIBLE EVENTS IN US IN WHICH SOVIET PARTICIPATION WOULD BE APPROPRIATE INCLUDE:

A) WORLD THEATRE FESTIVAL. SPONSORED BY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION HEADED BY ALEXANDER COHEN, FESTIVAL IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED AS BICENTENNIAL PROJECT. SPONSORS INTEND INVITE DISTINGUISHED THEATRE COMPANIES FROM ABROAD TO PERFORM IN NEW YORK AND OTHER CITIES IN 1976. COHEN HAS APPROACHED MOSCOW ART THEATER BUT PROJECT DEPENDS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISING AND NO COMMITMENTS PRESENTLY MADE.

B) OPERATION SAIL. ANOTHER OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BICENTENNIAL PROJECT WILL BRING TOGETHER TALL-MASTED SAIL TRAINING VESSELS FROM PERHAPS 20 NATIONS FOR RACE FROM BERMUDA TO NEWPORT AND SUBSEQUENT FESTIVE PARADE IN NEW YORK HARBOR JULY 4, 1976. VISITS TO OTHER PORTS SUCH

AS BALTIMORE CONTEMPLATED. UNDERSTAND SOVIETS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED BY PRIVATE OPERATION SAIL COMMITTEE.

C) NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN U.S. IN 1975 AND 1976 ARE RECOGNIZED AS BICENTENNIAL EVENTS, AND PARTICIPATION OF USSR PROFESSIONALS IS DESIRED. AMONG THEM ARE WORLD CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER 1976; 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR HISTORICAL SCIENCES IN SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 1975; WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 1975; CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY IN PHILADELPHIA, MAY 1976, TO WHICH RECTOR KHOKHLOV OF MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN INVITED AS ONE OF 150 DISTINGUISHED HUMANISTS. THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HAS ANNOUNCED PARTICIPATION BY PROFESSOR BOLKHOVITINOV IN BICENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM THIS MAY ON "IMPACT OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION ABROAD." DEPT WILL SEEK TO FORWARD TO EMBASSY PROMOTIONAL LITERATURE ON THESE CONFERENCES.

D) TOWN AFFILIATION ASSOCIATION HAS OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM FOR EXPANDING RELATIONS BETWEEN CITIES IN U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES. WE WILL SEEK TO PUSH ESTABLISHMENT OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS IN ADDITION TO SEATTLE--TASHKENT.

E) SMITHSONIAN HAS PROJECT FOR RE-CREATING PORTION OF CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION (REF. DEPT A-7287). SOVIET GOVERNMENT COULD BE INVITED TO SEND AN APPROPRIATE 1876 ITEM FOR 1976 RE-CREATION.

4. FYI: BUBNOV AND KAMENEV OF SOVIET EMBASSY CALLED ON BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATOR JOHN WARNER FEBRUARY 11 TO CONFIDENTIAL

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OBTAIN ADVICE ON AREAS IN WHICH SOVIETS MIGHT PARTICIPATE. WARNER SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE, PERFORMING ARTS AND EXHIBITS; MORE SPECIFICALLY HE EMPHASIZED OPERATION SAIL AND SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. KAMENEV INDICATED THAT VISIT OF BOLSHOI BALLET AND OPERA TO U.S. IN 1975 IS BICENTENNIAL RELATED AS WAS USSR PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSITION. (COPY OF MEMCON POUCHED TO EMBASSY-ATTN. NALLE. KISSINGER

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